

Growth Management Planning Council
Countywide Planning Policies
September 21, 2011

My name is Dan Streiffert. I am Chairman of the Sierra Club South King County Group. The Sierra Club supports the Final DRAFT of the CPPs and urges you to approve it, especially policies **DP-45 through DP-51**, which are intended to protect the Rural Area. However, the Sierra Club opposes the proposed extended reach into the Unincorporated Rural Areas to site Urban infrastructure.

The Sierra Club supports **PF-12 and DP-50** to limit new public facilities located in the Rural Area to a size and scale appropriate to serve the Rural Area. To this end, the Sierra Club joins many other organizations and individuals in strong opposition to the proposal to allow 19 existing School District-owned sites in the Rural Area to be exempt from the Final DRAFT-proposed prohibition of sewer extensions to schools sited in the Rural Area (policy **PF-12**).

Should these sites be developed with urban-serving facilities, a permanent scar will be made to local rural character and infrastructure. The concomitant pressure on rural road infrastructure will impact rural residents and our natural environment. Such development will cause large spans of impervious surface to replace forest and pastureland, thus further impacting a fragile natural hydrology.

Why do this in the first place? Why not put the schools where the children live and recreate? Why bus our children for miles and miles to a remote location far from familiar surroundings? Why not provide local locations, so that our children can walk to school and learn a sense of appreciation for our natural environment?

We also strongly oppose several proposed **Amendments** to the Final DRAFT of the CPPs. These include the following:

1. Lambert Amendments to **PF-18, PF-19, and DP-50**. These would give the green light to massive Urban Stormwater Detention Facilities in the Rural Area.
2. Sternoff Amendments to **PF-12, PF-18, PF-19, and DP-50**. These would give the green light to those 19 School District-owned sites.

Finally, we support the Growth Targets listed in **Table DP-1** and as described in **DP-12**. We continue to be appalled why small cities, such as Black Diamond, located on the outer fringes of the Urban Growth Boundary, can vastly exceed their Growth Targets *fivefold*!

In closing, the Sierra Club urges you to consider the impacts of your decisions on our shared environment. Please reject any proposed exemptions or Amendments and approve the Final Draft of the CPPs.

Thank you.

Dan Streiffert
Chair: South King County Group
dan_streiffert@hotmail.com